COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The number of villages in which MARR phones are installed are as follows: Medak-606, Adilabad-511, Nizamabad-250, Warangal-262, and Karimnagar-324.

(b) The number of MARR phones working at present, district-wise are Medak-340, Adilabad-81,. Nizamabad-237, Warangal-52, and Karimnagar-237.

(c) The number of MARR phones removed from villages district-wise; Medak-251, Adilabad-400, Nizamabad-2, Warangal-200 and Karimnagar-74. Consequent of burning down of some Village Public telephones in these districts by extremist elements, the MARR equipments were with drawn for safe custody on the advice of the Police authorities of these districts.

(d) No, Sir. Still the Police Authorities are not advising for reinstallation.

(e) Reinstallation shall be done on the advice of Police Authorities of the respective districts.

Default Payment by Basic Services Licence Holders

1801. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a massive revenue short fall to the extent of Rs. 1500 crore during 1996-97 is feared on account of default in payment by basis services licence holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed in this regard to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) As against the total extimated amount of Rs. 2074.72 crores in the form of Licence Fee, only Rs. 19.20 crores have been received so far. Four of the eight LOI holding companies have filed suit in the Delhi High Court against the encashment of their Earnest Money Bank Guarantees.

(c) The LOI holding companies have raised certain issues relating to Licence and Interconnect which are expected to be resolved shortly.

Facility of Zero Dialing for Calling Cellular Numbers

1802. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce a zero dial access for calling cellular number in all telecom exchanges;

(b) if so, the implications thereof to non-cellular phone subscribers;

(c) whether cellular operation have protected this move;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the move of Government is likely to reduce benefits to phone subscribers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes Sir. This facility has so far been introduced by the Department in the 4 metro Districts for calls beyond their service area and is being introduced in other Telecom Circles.

(b) Subscribers not having STD facility cannot access cellular subscribers in another service area.

(c) and (d) Representations received from cellular operators were related to Telecom Circles & were mainly against the tariff fixed by the Department of Telecom for the calls made from fixed to mobile telephones within the service area. In addition, cellular operators have also protested that STD-barred fixed subscribers will not be able to make calls to cellular subscribers.

In order to mitigate the second

problem, the Department of Telecom has decided to open a new level of 98 to provide access to cellular telephones from STD barred subscribers of the fixed network.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above

मध्य प्रदेश में डाकघर

1803. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**
श्री मूलचंद मीणा:

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश में नए डाकघर खोलने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी जिला-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) जी हां।

(ख) और (ग) डाकघर खोलने के लक्ष्य वार्षिक योजनाओं के अंतर्गत वर्ष-दर-वर्ष आधार पर सर्किलवार आवंटित किए जाते हैं। इन्हें अभी अंतिम रूप नहीं दिया गया है।

ISD for Hassan

1804. DR. ALLADI P. RAJAKUMAR:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up a Rs. 10 crores ISD plan for Hassan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to enhance quality service in all the Rural Automatic Exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is planned to provide STD on reliable media using a combination of Optical Fibre Cable, UHF and Satellite Systems. 13 stations are being covered on Optical Fibre Cable and 4 on Radio System. In addition, it is proposed to provide Satellite communications equipment at 2 locations.

(c) The following steps are being taken to enhance quality of service in all the Rural Automatic Exchanges:

(i) To convert all the rural exchanges into electronic exchanges. This objective has already been fulfilled in Karnataka Telecom Circle.

(ii) To progressively convert transmission medium from the rural exchanges to the district Trunk Automatic Exchanges by a stable medium.

(iii) Provide public telephones in all villages.

(iv) Provide STD to all exchanges.

(v) Open Customer Service Centres at Taluk Headquarters.

नए टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के पंजीकरण संबंधी नीति

1805. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने सभी राज्यों में नए टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के पंजीकरण हेतु एक समान नीति बनाई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस नीति का प्रत्येक राज्य में पालन किया जा रहा है;

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि राजकोट दूरसंचार मण्डल में इस राष्ट्रीय नीति का पालन नहीं किया जा रहा है;

(घ) क्या राजकोट में आवेदन-पत्र और पंजीकरण राशि जमा करने हेतु अलग-अलग दिन निर्धारित किए गए हैं; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) जी हां।

(ख) जी हां।